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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

ADMINISTRATION FACES THURSDAY DEADLINE TO REUNITE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FAMILIES. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/21, story 3, 0:40, Ninan, 3.1M) reported the Trump Administration must reunite the remainder of the more than 2,500 children of illegal immigrants separated from their parents at the border by a court-imposed deadline this Thursday. As of Friday, 450 children aged five and under have been reunited with their families, including a 15-month-old Honduran boy whose "case triggered an international uproar when he was separated from his father at the Texas border five months ago."

Judge Praises Administration's Efforts To Reunify Illegal Immigrant Families. [Reuters](#) (7/20, Hals) reports US District Judge Dana Sabraw on Friday praised the Trump Administration's continued efforts to reunite illegal immigrant children with their families, saying he is "very impressed with the effort being made." In a status report Thursday, the Administration said "nearly 850 parents had been interviewed and cleared for reunification...and another 229 parents had been deemed ineligible because of criminal records." [USA Today](#) (7/20, Gomez, 11.4M) reports Department of Justice attorney August Flentje "said the government is 'hoping' to complete all required reunifications by Thursday's deadline."

The [AP](#) (7/20, Spagat) reports that "the administration said about 1,600 parents were believed to be eligible for reunification and about 900 were not eligible or 'not yet known to be eligible.'" The AP adds, "Nearly 700 of the ineligible parents are being vetted," and "another 91 have been found to have a 'prohibitive criminal record' or been deemed ineligible by U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement." The Justice Department said "another 136 waived reunification." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/20, Mehrotra, 4.46M) also reports.

Attorneys Denounce Conditions For Migrant Children At US Detention Centers. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/20, Morrissey, 4.03M) reports "attorneys who recently visited Border Patrol stations, ports of entry and family detention centers filed a scathing report this week alleging that the federal government is not adequately caring for minors in its custody." According to the Times, "children and their parents interviewed by the attorneys described cramped cells where there wasn't enough space or bedding to sleep, cold or frozen food and a lack of access to basic hygiene products like toothbrushes and soap."

American Groups Raising Funds To Support Detained Illegal Immigrants. The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Correal, 19.33M) reports on how some Americans have launched crowdfunding campaigns to support separated illegal immigrant families in the US. One group, started by Julie Schwietert Collazo, has raised funds "to cover the bonds of 12 women," and has "arranged for them to be driven by volunteers to wherever their children were sent." The families were also provided "with housing and pro bono attorneys in the states where they have ended up."

Judge Takes Hard Line On Separating Migrant Families. The [AP](#) (7/22, Spagat) reports that US District Judge Dana Sabraw "appeared conflicted in early May on whether to stop families from being separated at the border," and "he challenged the Trump administration to explain how families were getting a fair hearing guaranteed by the Constitution, but also expressed reluctance to get too deeply involved with immigration enforcement." Seven weeks later, Judge Sabraw issued "a blistering opinion faulting the administration and its 'zero tolerance' policy for a 'crisis' of its own making," and "he went well beyond the American Civil Liberties Union's initial request to halt family separation...by imposing a deadline of this Thursday to reunify more than 2,500 children with their families." According to the AP, "Unyielding insistence on meeting his deadline, displayed in a string of hearings he ordered for updates, has made the San Diego jurist a central figure in a drama that has captivated international audiences with emotional accounts of toddlers and teens being torn from their parents."

DHS News:

DHS OFFICIAL: STATES NEED TO BE "MUCH MORE PRECISE" IN REQUESTING FUNDING FOR ELECTION SECURITY. [The Hill](#) (7/20, Beavers, 2.71M) reports Christopher Krebs, the undersecretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) at the Department of Homeland Security, said at The Washington Post's Cyber 202 Live event on Friday "that states must be 'much more precise' in their election security funding requests to Congress." According to Krebs, "If a state needs money, they need to say what they need it for and what they need – and that is going to help inform and drive the conversation on the Hill." Krebs added, "Rather than just say, 'We need money, give us money,' it's, 'We need X amount of money to address X threat and find out X amount of risk.'"

ARIZONA SHERIFF OFFERED SEAT ON DHS ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Douglas \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (7/21, Ellis, 5K) reports that Cochise County, AZ Sheriff Mark Daniels "has been offered an appointed seat on the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council in Washington, D.C., following recognition of the successful border-security initiatives carried out by the Cochise County Sheriff's Office in partnership with other local agencies." Daniels "is scheduled to meet with DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and President Donald Trump" today to discuss the appointment. According to the Dispatch, "It was during a tour of the Arizona border in June that Nielsen first brought up the idea of bringing Daniels on to the council after meeting with him in Douglas, said Carol Capas, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office. 'After her visit, it was determined that he could be a voice in the community and a part of that advisory council,' said Capas. 'It's typically made up of members of the DHS and other federal agencies.'"

Border Security:

SIX CUBAN MEN DETAINED IN FLORIDA KEYS. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/20, Goodhue, 1.07M) reports, "Monroe County

Sheriff's Office deputies found six Cuban men on shore near Whale Harbor in the Upper Florida Keys early Friday morning." The men, "who reported no medical issues, arrived in Islamorada between 4:15 am. and 4:30 a.m., Adam Linhardt, spokesman for the Sheriff's Office, said." According to the Herald, "Adam Hoffner, U.S. Border Patrol agent in charge in Marathon, said the men told agents they left Matanzas, Cuba about four days earlier." The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission "released a photo later Friday morning of the blue, wooden vessel on which the men arrived." The Herald adds, "Since the Obama administration, in one of its last foreign policy decisions, ended 'wet-foot, dry-foot,' which allowed Cubans reaching U.S. soil by sea to stay in the country, migration from the island nation 90 miles south of Key West slowed dramatically."

Aviation Security:

WOMAN LIKELY TO APPEAL TSA DECISION. The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Kunkle, 15.68M) reports, "It's been nearly 12 years since Nadine Pellegrino clashed with Transportation Security Administration officers at an airport checkpoint in Philadelphia, and she's still furious about what happened." Pellegrino "might even be angrier, now that her case has led to a federal appeals court decision saying TSA screeners cannot be sued for civil damages over alleged abuses. 'I'm outraged, as well as many other people who hear the real facts of what happened,' Pellegrino, 69, of Boca Raton, Fla., said in an interview. 'I was illegally arrested. ... I refer to what happened to me as a cesspool of corruption at the TSA. And nothing is done about it.'" Pellegrino "is able to recite from memory her version of what happened before local police at Philadelphia International Airport led her away in handcuffs on July 29, 2006, and what has happened during the legal fight since." Pellegrino and her husband "are reviewing their options and thinking of taking the appeal higher, perhaps to the Supreme Court."

Immigration Policy:

MIGRANT PARENTS HAVING DIFFICULTY REACHING SEPARATED CHILDREN. The [AP](#) (7/20, Lee, Torrens) reports, "Immigrant parents who were separated from their children under President Donald Trump's 'zero tolerance' policy for illegal border crossings are struggling to communicate by any means possible in the age of instant, international social media with sons and daughters kept in government-contracted facilities around the country," but "for most parents, phone calls have been the only connection to their children as the separations dragged on for weeks." The AP adds, "In rare instances, immigrant parents have been allowed to visit face-to-face with their children under supervision, as authorities take weeks to complete background checks and custody paperwork."

TEXAS BORDER CITIES SCRAMBLE TO HELP REUNITING MIGRANT FAMILIES. The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Fernandez, Ferman, 19.33M) reports from San Juan, TX, "For days now, San Juan, McAllen and other cities in the Rio Grande Valley have been a way station for the reunified families," as "volunteers, city officials, local businesses and members of Catholic organizations have scrambled to feed, assist and provide transportation and overnight housing for hundreds of the reunited families." The process "has been a relatively smooth one, because of a loose network of volunteers and officials who have been helping and housing undocumented immigrants in the Valley for years," but "as hundreds of reunited families have been released in just a matter of days, that network has struggled to respond to an unanticipated logistical emergency."

ADMINISTRATION RAMPS UP SCRUTINY OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. [The Hill](#) (7/22, Wheeler, 2.71M) reports that the Trump Administration "is stepping up efforts to curb legal immigration, taking a series of actions in recent weeks that could lead to deportation for people already granted citizenship." L. Francis Cissna, the director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "told The Associated Press recently that the agency is hiring dozens of lawyers and immigration officers to review cases of immigrants who are suspected of having lied to officials during the naturalization process." USCIS "made public on July 5 a memo announcing its plan to start issuing notices to appear for a wider range of cases. Those notices, which require an immigrant to appear before an immigration judge on a certain date, can be the first step in deportation proceedings," and "experts say that policy change, coupled with what came next, could vastly expand the number of individuals being referred for removal."

REP. MCCAUL CRITICIZES DEMOCRATS WHO VOTED TO FULLY AUTHORIZE ICE LAST YEAR. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/21, Brest, 420K) reports Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) in an appearance on "Cavuto Live" Saturday morning criticized Democrats calling on the government to abolish ICE. McCaul said "the irony...is that a year ago today, nearly every Democrat voted for my bill to fully authorize ICE into law for the first time ever, including Nancy Pelosi, including the Democrat who introduced the bill to abolish ICE."

FORMER ICE DIRECTOR CRITICIZES MICHELLE WOLF'S PARODY VIDEO ATTACKING AGENCY. [The Hill](#) (7/21, Bowden, 2.71M) reports former ICE Director Thomas Homan on Saturday criticized Michelle Wolf's comparison of the agency to ISIS in a parody video. Homan argued ICE "is protecting this country and keeping us safe." He highlighted the

agency's record over the last year, saying ICE "arrested over 2,000 child predators who trafficked in children for sexual exploitation," arrested "more than 100,000 criminals walking the streets of our country," and "seized 981,000 pounds of narcotics in the neighborhoods of this country."

LAWSUITS COMPLICATE DOJ'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT SANCTUARY IMMIGRATION POLICIES. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Corse, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports legal challenges have complicated the Department of Justice's crackdown on sanctuary immigration policies. While the DOJ claimed victory last month after an appeals court narrowed an injunction against the Administration's efforts to limit funding to sanctuary jurisdictions, opponents argue the decision was "hardly a win" for the agency.

WPOST CRITICIZES PLANS TO DIVERT CENTRAL AMERICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS TO MEXICO. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, 15.68M) calls plans to push Central American migrants to apply for asylum in Mexico a "terrible idea that would subject migrants from Central America and elsewhere to further violence and danger, and probably do little to curb illegal immigration to the United States." While the US has a similar agreement with Canada, "Mexico is patently unsuitable as a place of refuge for most migrants, especially those from Central America," who would be much more likely to "find a way to enter the United States illegally, even without the chance to apply for asylum here."

NYTIMES PROFILE: IRANIAN CARICATURIST GRANTED "EINSTEIN VISA" DESPITE TRAVEL BAN. The [New York Times](#) (7/22, Barron, 19.33M) profiles Nasrin Sheykhi, "a Muslim woman from Iran who had never been to the United States until after the Trump administration's ban on travel from several predominantly Muslim countries," when she was granted an EB-1A visa. Sheykhi, who received the so-called "Einstein visa" because of "her work as a caricaturist," has taken "some of the government's terminology and used it in the title of an exhibition of her works that opens on Tuesday at NoMo SoHo, at 9 Crosby Street: 'Alien of Extraordinary Ability: the EB-1A Tour.'"

BIDEN CALLS ZERO-TOLERANCE IMMIGRATION POLICY ONE OF AMERICA'S "DARKEST MOMENTS." [The Hill](#) (7/21, Byrnes, 2.71M) reports former Vice President Joe Biden criticized the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy, calling it "one of the darkest moments in our history." Biden accused the Administration of promoting "grotesque lies," and engaging in an "assault on our dignity."

GILLIBRAND: ONCE THEY TAKE BACK CONGRESS, DEMOCRATS SHOULD ABOLISH ICE. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/22, Hasson, 420K) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said on Sunday that Democrats "should immediately move to abolish the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they regain majorities in Congress. 'So when we flip the House and flip the Senate, I think the first thing we should do is deal with the children who have been separated from their families at the border. I think we should get rid of ICE,' Gillibrand said at the New York City festival OZY Fest."

Immigration Enforcement:

DETENTION CENTER OPERATORS FACING LAWSUITS OVER ALLEGED LABOR VIOLATIONS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Elinson, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports private detention center operators Geo Group and CoreCivic are facing lawsuits alleging they violated labor laws by paying detained migrants \$1 per day to perform work at the facilities. Lawyer Andrew Free explains that "because immigration detention is civil in nature," the migrants "cannot be made to work against their will" the way criminals can. The companies argue the labor programs are sanctioned by ICE, and note the \$1 rate was established by Congress decades ago.

ATTORNEYS SAY ASYLUM SEEKERS ENDURE SEVERE CONDITIONS IN DETENTION. The [AP](#) (7/20, Selsky) reports from Salem, OR, "Strip searches. Overcrowded cells with open toilets. Scant meals that violate religious restrictions." Federal public defenders "say 120 asylum seekers are enduring those conditions at a federal prison in Oregon where some have considered suicide and at least one has attempted it. 'We are dying day by day inside here,' one detainee said, William Teesdale, chief investigator for the federal public defender's office in Oregon, wrote in a filing in federal court in Portland." The AP adds, "Most of the asylum seekers held at the prison in rural Sheridan say they faced risks in their home countries, including India, Nepal, Guatemala, Mexico and China," but "instead of being welcomed to the U.S., they ran into the 'zero-tolerance' policy of the Trump administration that calls for the detention of people who try to enter the country illegally."

GUATEMALAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PLEADS GUILTY TO CRASH THAT KILLED COLTS LINEBACKER, UBER DRIVER. The [AP](#) (7/20) reports Guatemalan illegal immigrant Manuel Orrego-Savala on Friday pleaded guilty to driving drunk and causing an accident that killed Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson and his Uber driver. Orrego-Savala will be sentenced September 14 "and faces a possible maximum sentence of 16 years in prison and a possible fine of up to \$20,000."

JUDGE REJECTS US EFFORT TO STRIP CITIZENSHIP FROM JAILED TERRORIST. The [AP](#) (7/21) reports from

Columbus, OH, “The government can’t strip a terrorist of his U.S. citizenship, a federal judge ruled this month in a decision siding with a Pakistan-born man serving the last few years of a 20-year prison sentence for his guilty plea to plotting to destroy New York’s Brooklyn Bridge.” According to the AP, “The case involves Lyman Faris, who was sentenced in 2003 for aiding and abetting al-Qaida by scoping out the bridge as part of a plot to cut through cables that support it.” A court filing last year in an Illinois federal court “argued that Faris lied on immigration papers before becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1999 and that his terrorist affiliations demonstrated a lack of commitment to the U.S. Constitution.” US District Judge Staci Yanle “said this month there’s not enough evidence to prove Faris’ misrepresentations influenced the decision to grant him citizenship.”

DC ATTORNEY GENERAL DEMANDS INFORMATION FROM ICE AFTER RECENT ARRESTS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Thebault, 15.68M) reports, “D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine is asking Immigration and Customs Enforcement for information about the agency’s recent arrests of as many as 12 District residents. ‘Last week’s incidents are precisely the kind that spark fear in our city...and, more broadly, undermine the ability of our immigrant communities to participate fully in the civic life of the District,’ Racine (D) wrote in a letter Thursday to Ronald D. Vitiello, the agency’s acting director.” Racine “said he was seeking details about the arrests, which activists and local residents said they took place between July 9 and July 12 at a private home, local businesses and in front of an apartment complex in Columbia Heights, home to a significant Central American community.” Racine “was particularly concerned that federal agents targeted the neighborhood. ‘Disturbingly, some reports suggest that individuals may have been apprehended indiscriminately or as a result of racial or ethnic profiling,’ he wrote.”

FEDERAL JUDGE DENIES GAY UGANDAN WOMAN’S PLEA FOR RELEASE. The [Boston Globe](#) (7/20, Cramer, 945K) reports that US District Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV “ruled late Thursday that he has no jurisdiction to delay deportation proceedings of a gay Ugandan woman who has said she believes she could be persecuted, and even killed, if she returns to Uganda, where homosexuality is illegal and punishable by life in prison.” Judge Saylor “said that by law, the decision of whether to stay the removal of the woman while government officials weigh her claim for asylum based on her sexuality rests with immigration authorities, not the federal district court. ‘The Court is unwilling to ignore or defy the law, even in highly sympathetic circumstances,’ he wrote in a 21-page ruling. ‘To do so would be a fundamental violation of its most basic responsibilities.’”

Criminal Investigations:

NAVY COMMANDER PLEADS GUILTY IN CALIFORNIA TO USING DARK WEB TO BUY, SELL DRUGS. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (7/20, Riggins, 664K) reports, “A Navy commander with 23 years of military service pleaded guilty to a drug charge Friday in San Diego federal court, admitting that he conspired to buy and sell ecstasy and other drugs on the dark web over at least an 18-month period that ended with his March arrest at his Hillcrest condo.” Adolph Garza, 54, “faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, and a fine up to \$500,000, when he’s sentenced in December” after “he pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to conspiracy to distribute controlled substances by internet.” Garza, of San Diego, “admitted using the dark web to make multiple purchases of ecstasy, ketamine, cocaine, amphetamine and other controlled substances over an 18-month period from August 2016 to March of this year.”

The [Times of San Diego](#) (7/20) reports, “Garza admitted that on at least 15 occasions, the drugs he ordered were the same ones seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at airports in San Francisco, New York and Chicago; and by U.S. Postal Inspectors and Homeland Security Investigations agents in San Diego.”

GUATEMALAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DEATH OF FOOTBALL PLAYER, UBER DRIVER. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (7/20, Ryckaert, Hays, 477K) reports, “A man charged with drunken driving that caused the deaths of an Indianapolis Colts player and an Uber driver pleaded guilty Friday in Marion County.” Manuel Orrego-Savala “faces 10 to 16 years in jail after pleading guilty to two counts of causing death of another person when operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 percent or more.” The crash “killed Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson and Uber driver Jeffrey Monroe.” Orrego-Savala, “a 37-year-old Guatemalan, also is facing federal charges of illegal re-entry of a previously deported alien.”

Secret Service:

SECRET SERVICE SHARES EXPERTISE TO PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS. [The Hill](#) (7/20, Bonn, 2.71M) reports, “The Secret Service is looking to share its expertise in identifying would-be assassins with school districts in hopes of thwarting future mass shootings by students.” According to The Hill, “The agency earlier this month began sharing an eight-step operational guide with local school districts, in direct response to concerns raised by the recent mass shootings in Parkland, Fla., and Santa Fe, Texas. ‘It gives you step-by-step actionable activities that schools can take that standardize the process that can identify students who might be in distress or exhibiting concerning behavior,’ explained

Lina Alathari, chief of the Secret Service's Threat Assessment Team." Alathari "added the information being shared with schools also included 'how to gather information from multiple sources and assess the risk the student pose for engaging in not only harm against the school, but also possible harm to themselves.'"

Emergency Response:

FEMA OFFICIAL URGES PEOPLE TO GET FLOOD INSURANCE. In interview footage that appears on the [WFTS-TV](#) Tampa, FL (7/20, 90K) website, FEMA's Paul Huang said he and other officials at the agency are "really trying to preach a culture of preparedness. And one thing folks often overlook is the need for flood insurance." Huang suggested that people who do not have such insurance should immediately begin the process of obtaining it.

WSJournal: US House Is Dysfunctional Because Of Blocks Like One Stopping NFIP Renewal. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) argued in an editorial that Rep. Steve Scalise's effort to block a short-term NFIP renewal bill sends a bad message to other US House members. Accusing Scalise of trying to take the bill hostage because he represents the flood-prone state of Louisiana, the Journal said such tactics have made the House dysfunctional.

JUDGE KEEPS TSA BENEFITS FLOWING TO HURRICANE-DISPLACED PUERTO RICANS. The [AP](#) (7/20, Schneider) reported that a US district judge recently ruled Puerto Ricans who have been staying in US mainland hotels can continue using Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) benefits. Officials with FEMA "said in a statement that participating hotels were being notified about" the ruling, which keeps the benefits flowing until "at least checkout time on Aug. 7." The [Huffington Post](#) (7/21, Windle, Russell, 4.32M) and the [WMFE-FM](#) Orlando, FL (7/20, Chavez, 8K) website also covered this story.

ALABAMA TWISTER PART OF RECENT TORNADO OUTBREAK. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/22, lead story, 2:40, Llamas, 4.01M) reported that a "tornado outbreak" recently moved "out of the Midwest and into the South." A twister that hit a mobile home park in Alabama on Saturday was one of 36 recent tornadoes in the US, according to the story, which also highlighted recent flooding in New Jersey and other eastern US areas. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/22, story 5, 0:15, Morgan, 3.59M) also covered the Alabama tornado, as well as a Sunday night severe weather threat in many parts of America's eastern region. The threat was also covered by [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/22, story 6, 0:25, Snow, 6.07M), which did not cover the Alabama tornado.

THREE US LAWMAKERS ASK LONG TO SEND MORE SPANISH-SPEAKING WORKERS TO RIO GRANDE VALLEY. The [McAllen \(TX\) Monitor](#) (7/21, Garcia, 93K) reported that Reps. Filemon Vela, Vicente Gonzalez and Henry Cuellar recently asked Administrator Long to "send more Spanish-speaking workers" to flood-damaged parts of the Rio Grande Valley. The request followed a "complaint from Texas state Senator Eddie Lucio Jr." But, added the Monitor, FEMA Public Information Officer Robin Smith said "every single person" working at Rio Grand Valley disaster recovery centers speaks Spanish.

Coast Guard:

INVESTIGATION INTO DUCK BOAT TRAGEDY CONTINUES. In continuing coverage of the Missouri duck boat accident that left 17 people dead, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/22, story 3, 2:25, Llamas, 4.01M) reported that the National Transportation Safety Board is "preparing to examine data taken from that doomed boat's recorder, found 80 feet below the surface," which could shed light on what occurred in the final minutes before the vessel capsized. NTSB Member Earl Weener said of the data recorder, "We think it will show what the actions were of the captain, what he tried to do to maneuver the vessel, as well as any instructions he might have given to the passengers." Survivor Tia Coleman said the captain told the passengers where the safety vests were located, but insisted the passengers would not need them.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/22, story 2, 2:00, Snow, 6.07M) reported Steven Paul, a private inspector, was hired to examine duck boats when the current owner of Ride The Ducks Company was preparing to purchase the business. In his report, Paul "warned that the design flaws made the boats more susceptible to sinking and harder to escape in an emergency," and Paul explained, "The canopy on the ducks as well as the curtains that come down the sides, when the curtains are down, there is no way for people to escape. It becomes a people catcher." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/22, story 3, 1:40, Morgan, 3.59M) also reported on the incident.

[USA Today](#) (7/22, Hughes, 11.4M) reports former NTSB Chairman Jim Hall said on Sunday that duck boats should be banned, saying, "I think it's the responsible thing to do to ensure (riders) are not put at risk." USA Today reports the NTSB had recommended that duck boats have additional flotation devices installed in them following a fatal incident in Arkansas in 1999. The NTSB said in its report of that incident, "Contributing to the sinking was a flaw in the design of DUKWs as

converted for passenger service, that is, the lack of adequate reserve buoyancy that would have allowed the vehicle to remain afloat in a flooded condition.”

[USA Today](#) (7/22, Schmitt, 11.4M) reports, “The Coast Guard has announced that efforts will begin Monday to salvage the duck boat that capsized on Table Rock Lake near Branson, Missouri, on Thursday, killing 17 people aboard.” The Coast Guard “on Sunday said that salvage operations for the duck boat are tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday morning,” and the Coast Guard “said it will oversee the salvage operations, which will be coordinated by the Ride the Ducks company. ‘The salvage plan includes bringing Stretch Duck 7 to the surface, taking it to shore and transporting it to a secure facility for further inspection and investigation, where the National Transportation Safety Board will maintain custody of it,’ the Coast Guard said in a statement.”

Trump, Pence Express Condolences After 17 Die When Duck Boat Sinks In Missouri. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/20, story 2, 3:20, Muir, 7.14M) broadcast that a duck boat sunk on Thursday in the middle of a storm while out on Table Rock Lake in Branson, Missouri and as of Friday, 17 people, aged one to 70, are dead out of the 31 who were on board, including “nine members of the same family,” who went down while bystanders were “watching helplessly nearby.” ABC added that the owner of the duck boat, Ripley Entertainment, “said the operator has a good safety record, but he says that storm came out of nowhere.” [The Hill](#) (7/20, Thomsen, 2.71M) reports President Trump and Vice President Pence offered their condolences. Trump [said](#), “My deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those involved in the terrible boat accident which just took place in Missouri. Such a tragedy, such a great loss. May God be with you all!” Pence [said](#), “Our hearts break for the tragic loss of life in Missouri today. Karen and I send our deepest sympathies and are praying for the victims’ families and friends today.”

The lead [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, lead story, 3:40, Glor, 4.91M) broadcast said that the NTSB is investigating the accident and added the company “has stopped all of their operations while federal investigators are trying to figure out exactly what happened.” The lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/20, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 6.34M) broadcast that the lake is 80 feet deep where the duck boat went under, and “federal officials now say they hope to have it out of the water sometime next week so they can inspect it to see if any mechanical issues contributed to this disaster.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, story 2, 2:30, Glor, 4.91M) broadcast in its second segment that the largest duck boat company, Ride the Ducks, a subsidiary of Ripley Entertainment, operates the duck boats on Table Rock Lake, and “also operates in Boston; Mobile, Alabama; Stone Mountain Park, Georgia; and Seattle.” Ride the Ducks claims this is its first fatal incident in 47 years of business. Back in 1999, when 13 people died after a duck boat sank in Arkansas, “the NTSB urged changes to the canopy because it can trap passengers in a sinking vehicle, a situation potentially made worse if they’re wearing life vests.” The broadcast also reported that there are 118 duck boats certified to operate in the US by the Coast Guard.

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (7/20, A1, Eligon, Williams, Smith, 19.33M) reports that “residents around Branson, a showy city that draws throngs of tourists to the Midwest every summer, said the storm had come up suddenly, only a short time after weather officials had issued warnings, and with a shocking ferocity.” Another duck boat out on the lake was able to make it back to the docks safely.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19, A1, Ristau, Berman, Chiu, Wax-Thibodeaux, 15.68M) reports some observers are questioning whether the duck boat should have left the dock given weather reports and the storm warning in place in that part of the Ozarks. As former president of the American Meteorological Society Marshall Shepherd says, “We have satellites, advanced radars, good weather models, all short-term weather information showed that storms approaching well before the boat was on the water.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) provides similar coverage.

Duck Boat Design Flagged Years Before Fatal Incident. [Reuters](#) (7/20, Kvetenadze, Kvetenadze, Goldberg) reports, “The drownings of 17 people when a “duck boat” in which they were riding sank in a storm over a Missouri lake on Thursday was reminiscent of an accident involving the amphibious tourist vessel in 1999 in which 13 people died,” and “a Philadelphia lawyer who has advocated for victims of other duck boat disasters said the canopy roof on duck boats turned them into a ‘death trap’ even for anyone wearing a life preserver. ‘You drown if you do, you drown if you don’t,’ said Robert Mongeluzzi, who is calling for federal and state transportation officials to immediately halt all duck boat operations.” A “decades old report by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said duck boats’ canopy roof contributed to the 13 deaths in the 1999 incident, on Lake Hamilton in Arkansas. ‘Canopies present major safety risks that need to be addressed ... both adults and children wearing life jackets are at risk of being drowned if entrapped by the overhead canopy,’ the NTSB said of the sinking.”

Cyber News:

DOJ POLICY OF ATTRIBUTING FOREIGN CYBERATTACKS MAY HAVE LIMITED IMPACT. [Fifth Domain Cyber](#) (7/20, Lynch) reports that the DOJ has “pledged to attribute foreign cyberattacks, hacking and disinformation intended to sway American elections as part of a new policy,” but “experts and government officials have raised questions about the effectiveness of the Justice Department’s new policy, released July 19.” Observers “have noted that the new plan’s impact may be limited. Even as” DAG Rod Rosenstein “announced the policy, he cautioned it would be ‘limited by our obligation to protect intelligence sources and methods.’”

TECHNOLOGISTS STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND IMPLICATIONS OF DATA COLLECTION. Kalev Leetaru writes for [Forbes](#) (7/21, Leetaru, 10.34M) that the revelations in January that fitness trackers can provide information that exposes “highly sensitive security information about the locations and movements of military, intelligence and other government personnel near highly security sensitive facilities” shows that technology companies “must stop seeing the world through the narrow lens of technology and instead bring together those from other disciplines to help them understand how their data and technologies might be used for nefarious purposes.” Technologists “can come up with truly brilliant and bleeding edge technological solutions, but they are rarely able to see beyond the code to understand how it might be misused or endanger its users.”

CYBERATTACK TARGETS SINGAPORE’S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM. The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Beech, 19.33M) reports a cyberattack targeting SingHealth, the public health system in Singapore, “compromised data from 1.5 million people, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, a cancer survivor, the authorities announced on Friday.” In a statement, the Singaporean Health Ministry and Ministry of Communications and Information described the hack as “a deliberate, targeted and well-planned cyberattack” that “was not the work of casual hackers or criminal gangs.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Watts, Chaturvedi, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Singaporean officials announced Friday that the nation’s plans to digitize and centralize sensitive information would be postponed, pending an investigation into the breach, which was initially detected on July 4. According to the Journal, the unprecedented breach serves as a warning to other cities around the world that, like Singapore, have started digitizing and centralizing sensitive information in a bid to streamline those services.

POLITICO: MUELLER SEEMS TO SOLVE MYSTERY OF FANCY BEAR CODE’S AUTHOR. The [Daily Beast](#) (7/20, Poulsen, 1.69M) reports that Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s team appears to have unveiled the author of one of Fancy Bear’s primary long-term backdoors, X-Agent. In the past, researchers who track the Russian hacking group have come across “the recurring nickname of the code’s author: ‘kazak.’” In the indictment of 12 Russian intelligence officers for hacking the DNC, Mueller says Lt. Cap. Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek allegedly “developed, customized, and monitored X-Agent malware used to hack the DCCC and DNC networks.” The indictment adds that Kozachek “used a variety of monikers, including ‘kazak.’”

NPPD OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ELECTION SECURITY. [Federal Computer Week](#) (7/20, Williams, 263K) reports NPPD undersecretary Christopher Krebs “stressed during a July 20 Washington Post cyber event that individuals’ voting rights were safe despite persistent cybersecurity threats to election infrastructure.” Krebs “told senators during a July 11 hearing of the House Homeland Security Committee that while the elections remain a potential target for Russian disinformation campaigns, there’s no evidence that activity has reached 2016 levels.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Inzaurrealde, 15.68M) reports Krebs “praised the level of ‘engagement’ of stakeholders in working to improve election security.”

[NextGov](#) (7/20, Marks) reports Krebs also said the Administration is putting together a national risk management initiative that aims to tighten cyberthreat communication lines between government and industry.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, 15.68M) featured Krebs in a video in which he “reveals the government’s priorities, including protecting the nation’s cyber infrastructure and ensuring the security of elections.”

In another [video](#) (7/20, 15.68M), Krebs “says there have been no concerted efforts to hack an American campaign or election since 2016,” and in a [third](#) (7/20, 15.68M) he “discusses whether the U.S. is overly focused on Russia at the expense of other foreign cyber threats.”

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ELECTION SECURITY WORKING GROUP. The [AP](#) (7/20) reports Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf “announced Friday he was setting up the Inter-Agency Election Preparedness and Security Workgroup, led by his cabinet member who heads the agency that oversees voting.” The group will “focus on training and preparation at all levels of election administration, planning for different possible problems and collecting public input on the topic of election security.”

Wisconsin Election Security Posts Unfilled. The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (7/21, 369K) reports, “Six new state positions to help secure Wisconsin elections from cyber threats remain vacant months after being created.” Elections Commission members “say Gov. Scott Walker’s administration has been the holdup to filling the jobs.” The Journal adds, “It’s now clear the positions won’t be filled before the Aug. 14 primary election.”

Washington Post: States Must Push Federal Representatives To Lead On Election Security. A [Washington Post](#) (7/22, 15.68M) editorial said that Maryland leaders were surprised to learn from the FBI that the “Internet technology company with which the state contracts to hold electronic voting information is connected to a Russian oligarch who is ‘very close’ to Russian President Vladimir Putin.” The Post said that Maryland “is ahead of the curve relative to its peers” in terms of election security and asks, “If even motivated states can be surprised, what about the real laggards?” The Post adds that “Congress seems uninterested in offering any more financial help, despite states’ glaring needs,” which means states “have to press their representatives in Washington to change course, or find the money elsewhere.”

Philadelphia Inquirer: States Must Do More On Election Security. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (7/20, Board, 1.07M) editorializes that “the recent indictment of 12 Russian intelligence officials charged with interfering in the 2016 election, and President Trump’s apparent alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin in denying the hacks, underscores the seriousness of this attack on the United States’ democracy.” The Inquirer adds, “Trump’s willful blindness to the Russian cyberattacks means the U.S. remains vulnerable to interference in future elections. All the more reason why states, including Pennsylvania, must move to protect our voting system from such attacks.”

OKLAHOMA CIO: NEW DATA SECURITY LAWS NEEDED. [StateScoop](#) (7/22, Wood) reports, “Oklahoma CIO James ‘Bo’ Reese told lawmakers some progress is being made where state information technology is concerned, but that new laws are needed to simplify a complex regulatory environment.” Reese is quoted saying, “Federal data security regulations and accompanying audits have not kept pace with changing state government IT business models and are increasingly hindering the ability of state CIOs to streamline processes and deliver savings to state taxpayers.”

US OFFICIALS WARN OF IRAN CYBERTHREAT. [NBC News](#) (7/20, 5.76M) reports on its website that at the 2018 Aspen Security Forum, DNI Coats, FBI Director Wray, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein, and other US officials warned “of the pervasive danger” posed by Russian, Chinese, Iranian, and North Korean cyberattacks. NBC said it is unclear whether the US is considering “a preemptive cyberattack to deter Iran from launching” a cyberattack, but the option has “divided” senior Administration officials. That division “is in part what has delayed the finalization of the Trump administration’s overall cyber policy, according to one former official.” Meanwhile, United Nations spokesperson for the Iranian mission, Alireza Miryousefi, accused the US of being “the most belligerent cyber attacker of any nation in the world, repeatedly attacking military and civilian targets across the world including in Iran.” Miryousefi also blamed the US for undermining “international efforts to establish global rules surrounding cyber issues.” NBC said a National Security Council spokesperson declined to comment on Miryousefi’s remarks.

REPORT: HUAWEI EQUIPMENT LEAVES UK TELECOM NETWORKS AT RISK. The [Press Association \(UK\)](#) (7/20) reports that a UK government investigation “into the use of Huawei’s equipment across UK telecommunication networks has exposed ‘new risks.’” The Huawei Cyber Security Evaluation Centre Oversight Board “published a report saying there are ‘shortcomings’ in the Chinese firm’s engineering processes, meaning it could only provide ‘limited assurance’ over the risk to UK national security.”

CLOUDFLARE: EVERY MAJOR 2016 CAMPAIGN TARGETED BY CYBERATTACKS. [Fast Company](#) (7/20, Captain, 2.4M) reports, “Whether via Russian agents or other hackers around the world, every significant 2016 presidential campaign was targeted by cyber attacks, says” Cloudflare, “the company that sought to protect them with cybersecurity measures.” Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince “doesn’t claim that Cloudflare could have prevented the attacks on the Clinton campaign or the DNC...but he does say that Mueller’s findings indicate that the same hackers may have targeted Cloudflare clients.”

HOUSE BILL TO UPDATE CDM. [ExecutiveGov](#) (7/20) reports, “Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas has introduced a bill to keep the Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation program of the Department of Homeland Security up-to-date.” Ratcliffe “explained that the bill is meant to extend the program’s lifespan, maintain concurrence with technologies in the private sector and prevent system obsolescence issues in government agencies.”

DNI: US CYBER WEAKNESS COULD LEAD TO CYBER 9/11. The [Boston Globe](#) (7/20, Bray, 945K) reports Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats “is warning that weaknesses in US cybersecurity could be setting us up for a high-tech replay of the devastating terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.” Coats “says Russia is the worst offender, but it has plenty of company, including the US economic archrival China, and rogue states like Iran and North Korea,” as well as the Islamic State and “powerful criminal gangs.”

AUTOMOTIVE COMPANY DATA LEFT EXPOSED ON INTERNET. The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Cowley, 19.33M) reports, "This month, a security researcher came across tens of thousands of sensitive corporate documents – including many from nearly all of the largest auto manufacturers – on the open internet, unprotected." The material came "from more than 100 companies that had interacted with a small Canadian company, Level One Robotics and Controls."

US LOSING GROUND ON CYBER LEADERSHIP TO EU, CHINA. [Politico](#) (7/22, Geller, 3.51M) reports, "The United States is losing ground as the internet's standard-bearer in the face of aggressive European privacy standards and China's draconian vision for a tightly controlled Web." Politico adds, "Experts in cyber policy say the trends could slow the internet's growth, stunt innovation and erect new market barriers for American businesses. And while these trends began before Donald Trump became president, his administration has yet to devise a clear plan to rebut either of these agendas."

US ABILITY TO SAFEGUARD CENSUS DATA UNDER QUESTION. [Atlantic's CityLab](#) (7/20, Capps, 79K) reports, "The 2020 census will be the first in the nation's history to be conducted electronically," but "the decision to go from analog to digital couldn't come at a worse time," as Russian election interference "has raised root-level questions about the government's readiness (and willingness) to shore up its cybersecurity protocols ahead of the midterms." National security experts have written to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Census Bureau Acting Director Ron Jarmin "to ask for details about the bureau's strategy for protecting its data."

FBI'S 41 MOST-WANTED CYBER CRIMINALS INCLUDE DAM HACKER, "GAME OF THRONES" THIEF. In a piece on the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/22, Hamilton, 3.29M), Isobel Asher Hamilton writes, "The FBI has 41 suspects on its 'Cyber's Most Wanted' page, an identity parade of some of the most skilled hackers in the world. Their crimes range from state-sponsored espionage to holding episodes of 'Game of Thrones,' and even hacking into a US dam." The piece presents information "about each of the suspects and the crimes they committed."

CASE OF MISSING PENNSYLVANIA TEEN HIGHLIGHTS PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ONLINE PREDATORS. The [Valley \(PA\) News Dispatch](#) (7/22, Thomas, 126K) reports, "The case of a missing 15-year-old Westmoreland County girl who was found recently in Michigan brings the tally to 25 missing children from Western Pennsylvania who were alleged victims of violent crimes in the past year who were located by the FBI." The caseload "has almost doubled in just a year for the FBI's Pittsburgh office of Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force, according to Chad Yarbrough, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh office." The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "the nation's clearinghouse for child victimization, reports a recent 'exponential increase' of a range of child victimization cases."

Terrorism Investigations:

IMPRISONED CO-CONSPIRATOR OF 9/11 TERROR ATTACKS DECLARES HUNGER STRIKE DUE TO RELIGIOUS "TORTURE." The [Denver Post](#) (7/20, Mitchell, 755K) reported Zacarias Moussaoui, "the reputed 20th hijacker in the 9/11 terror attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. recently sent three letters to a Denver federal magistrate judge declaring he's on a hunger strike because of religious persecution by the FBI as part of a conspiracy to hide U.S. and Saudi Arabian ties to the terror attacks."

SUSPECTED AMERICAN ISIS FIGHTER CAPTURED IN SYRIA "TRICKED" INTO TRAVELING OVERSEAS. The [Detroit News](#) (7/20, Snell, Rahal, 710K) reported Ibraheem Musaibli, "a Dearborn man captured on an Islamic State battlefield this month was tricked by fellow Muslims into traveling overseas and became trapped in war-torn Syria, his brother said Friday." Legal experts, public records and relatives "helped establish a narrative timeline of...Musaibli's final months in the United States, his alleged attempts to escape an Islamic State prison with help from the FBI and potential prosecution in a high-profile criminal case in Detroit." The chronology emerged Friday.

BRITISH MAN CONVICTED OF PLOTTING PARLIAMENT ATTACK SENTENCED TO LIFE. [Reuters](#) (7/20, Staff) reports 28-year-old British citizen Khalid Ali, who "had made bombs for the Taliban in Afghanistan and was plotting an attack near London's parliament," was sentenced to "life with a minimum term of 40 years at the Old Bailey court on Friday." About a month before his arrest in April last year, the "British-born convert to Islam had ploughed a car into pedestrians on nearby Westminster Bridge, killing four people, before stabbing a policeman to death in the grounds of parliament."

THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY TALIBAN CLASHES WITH ISIS IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN. [Reuters](#) (7/20, Sahak) reports clashes between Taliban and ISIS fighters "in a remote district of Jawzjan province in northern Afghanistan have caused heavy casualties and displaced thousands of people in recent days, officials said on Friday." Officials from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs "said they had an unconfirmed estimate that around

500 families, or some 3,500 people may have been displaced by the fighting but some local officials said the total may be twice that level.” According to Reuters, ISIS militants “first appeared in eastern Afghanistan almost four years ago and have fought the Taliban as well as government forces, establishing a reputation for unusual cruelty even by the standards of the Afghan conflict.” Gen. John Nicholson, the top NATO commander in Afghanistan, “estimated this year that Islamic State has around 1,500 fighters in Afghanistan, mainly in the east and in a ‘pocket’ in Jawzjan.”

ANALYSIS: COUNTERTERRORISM LESSONS FROM PARIS. In a “Viewpoints” piece for [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/20, Porges, 551K), Marisa Porges writes, “The two-year anniversary of the Nice terrorist attack...passed without incident. This despite massive parades and public gatherings across France, in honor of last weekend’s national holiday and the French soccer team’s World Cup win. ... For those watching from across the Atlantic, it provided lessons for how to effectively respond to the sorts of terrorist attacks that have become more and more common over the past three years.” Alongside physical and technological measures, “increased joint operations between local police and military forces are noticeable.” But “what happens when we apply these ideas in the United States?” The FBI “now has Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) in 104 cities nationwide, to enhance coordination among more than 500 state and local agencies and 55 federal agencies. But with almost 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States, continued focus on information-sharing and expanded joint training efforts remain critical – and there is no simple solution.”

National Security News:

LAWMAKERS STRIP MEASURE TARGETING ZTE FROM DEFENSE BILL. [Reuters](#) (7/20) reported congressional leaders “who reached an agreement on a must-pass defense bill cut from the legislation a measure that would have made it harder for the president to undo sanctions slapped on China’s ZTE Corp.” Reuters highlights that “lawmakers from both parties have been at odds with” President Trump “over his decision to lift a ban on U.S. companies selling to ZTE, allowing China’s second-largest telecommunications equipment maker to resume business.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer said, “By stripping the Senate’s tough ZTE sanctions provision from the defense bill, President Trump – and the congressional Republicans who acted at his behest – have once again made President Xi and the Chinese Government the big winners.” Reuters adds Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) “called the change ‘bad news’ in a tweet, lamenting the increased chances the Chinese ‘controlled’ company stays in business.”

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (7/20, 2.1M) reported the legislation will include the “House version of a measure excluding ZTE from US government contracts but allowing it to do business with private companies in the US” over the Senate version, which “called for the restoration of a full ban.” According to the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Werner, 15.68M), “The retreat means ZTE, a company found guilty of selling U.S. goods to Iran in violation of sanctions, will duck Commerce Department penalties that bar U.S. companies from doing business with it,” which “would effectively put ZTE out of business.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (7/20, Swanson, 19.33M) conceded the National Defense Authorization Act “does contain text to expand the authority of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which reviews foreign deals for security threats. And it also bolsters the system the United States uses to monitor the technologies that are exported abroad.” [Bloomberg News](#) (7/20, Leonard, Wasson, 4.46M) reported that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Republican leaders on Tuesday also “reached a deal to bolster the existing review process for” CFIUS.

ASPEN SECURITY FORUM SPEAKERS ALARMED BY CHINESE AGGRESSION. The [AP](#) (7/21) reports Michael Collins, the CIA’s East Asia mission center deputy assistant director, said Friday at the Aspen Security Forum that China is waging a “quiet kind of cold war” against the US. “National Intelligence Director Dan Coats also warned of rising Chinese aggression,” and “Susan Thornton, acting assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said increasing the public’s awareness about the activities of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese students or groups at U.S. universities could be one way to help mitigate potential damage.” Franklin Miller, the “former senior director for defense policy and arms control at the National Security Council, said China’s weapons developments are emphasizing the need to have a dialogue with Beijing.” He told forum attendees that the US must “try to engage,” and that his “expectations for successful engagement are medium-low, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/21, Pickrell, 420K) reports that “Collins indirectly described China as a ‘country that exploits all avenues of power — licit and illicit, public and private, economic and military — to undermine the standing of [its] rival relative to [its] own standing without resorting to conflict.” [Newsweek](#) (7/22, Porter, 2.18M) reports that Collins said Chinese ambitions set “up a competition with us and what we stand behind far more significantly by any extreme than what the Russians could put forward.” He added that Beijing’s ultimate goal is to “have ‘every country in the world’ side with Chinese over U.S. interests.”

Reporting that Collins said Beijing is “learning to be more coercive, learning to be more aspirational, learning to be more assertive by what they’re getting away with,” [CNN](#) (7/20, Tarabay, 82.6M) reports that Thornton said, “We have to get

back to doing what we do well. Our soft power is incredibly more powerful than their soft power.” She added, “They don’t really have that same kind of attractiveness that the US system has, and I think that’s because our partners around the world know we stand by them and know we won’t impose our will on them, that we’ll work together with them.”

[The Hill](#) (7/21, Bowden, 2.71M) reports that the comments in Aspen come days after FBI Director Wray “said that China represents the ‘broadest’ immediate threat to American interests. ‘The volume of it. The pervasiveness of it. The significance of it is something that I think this country cannot underestimate,’ Wray said of Chinese espionage efforts uncovered by his agency.”

The [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (7/21, Roeder, 206K) reports that amid the trade tensions with China, Collins “worries whether the U.S. has enough leverage to make Trump’s trade threats stick. While America is an important trading partner for China, it has solid trade relationships across the globe. ‘Trade with the United States is not that significant in terms of their economic well-being,’ he said.”

[NBC News](#) (7/21, Smith, 5.76M) reports remarks on China at the security forum come as “diplomatic tensions stretch beyond the escalating trade war” between the two countries. The US has “repeatedly railed against Beijing for what it says is a deeply entrenched theft of U.S. intellectual property and forced technology transfer from U.S. companies to Chinese competitors, charges Chinese officials deny.” Washington has “also criticized China for asserting its dominance in the contested South China Sea. ‘I would argue that it’s the Crimea of the East,’ Collins said, referring to Russia’s brash annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula, which was condemned throughout the West.”

RESIDENTS NEAR RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT BUILDING IN BRONX SAY “SPIES ARE EVERYWHERE.” The [New York Post](#) (7/21, Vincent, 4.46M) reports, “In a quiet corner of The Bronx, nestled among trees and quaint 1960s houses, the Cold War still lingers. The center of intrigue is located in northern Riverdale, an area dominated by the towering, white apartment complex that houses diplomats and others who work for Russia’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Across the road, on West 255th Street, sits an unassuming two-story house that residents believe doubles as an FBI command post, they told The Post. ... Although it’s a mystery what goes on at the giant complex – a place many local residents refer to simply as ‘the compound’ – most assume that many of their Russian neighbors are spies.”

Other DHS News:

MGM BANKING ON ANTI-TERRORISM LAW IN SUING SHOOTING VICTIMS. The [AP](#) (7/20, Cano) reports from Las Vegas, “The unprecedented move from MGM Resorts International to sue hundreds of victims of last year’s mass shooting in Las Vegas using an obscure U.S. law never tested in court has been framed by the casino-operator as an effort to avoid years of costly litigation – but the legal maneuver may not play out that way.” The company “is not seeking money in the lawsuits filed in at least seven states over the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history,” but “instead, it wants federal courts to declare that it has no liability to survivors or families of slain victims under a federal law enacted after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.” MGM “argues that the Oct. 1 shooting met two conditions of the law: it qualifies as an act of terrorism and federally certified security services were used at the venue where 22,000 concertgoers were gathered as gunfire rained down from the company’s Mandalay Bay casino-resort,” but “experts believe legal resolutions won’t come quickly because appeals are practically guaranteed and a U.S. court may not be the appropriate entity to determine whether the shooting is considered terrorism.” The Department of Homeland Security “said Friday that the law authorizes its leader to make that declaration.”

NEW TARIFFS ON CHINESE GOODS MAY HIT APPLE WATCH, FITBIT. [Reuters](#) (7/20, Nellis) reports, “The latest round of U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods could hit the Apple Watch, health trackers, streaming music speakers and other accessories assembled in China, government rulings on tariffs show.” According to Reuters, “The rulings name Apple Inc’s watch, several Fitbit Inc (FIT.N) activity trackers and connected speakers from Sonos Inc.,” and “while consumer technology’s biggest sellers such as mobile phones and laptops so far have faced little danger of import duties, the rulings show that gadget makers are unlikely to be spared altogether and may have to consider price hikes on products that millions of consumers use every day.” The devices “have all been determined by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials to fall under an obscure subheading of data transmission machines in the sprawling list of U.S. tariff codes,” and “that particular subheading is included in the more than 6,000 such codes in President Donald Trump’s most recent round of proposed tariffs released earlier this month.”

Global Media:

AUDIT FINDS CANADA’S IMMIGRATION DETENTION REVIEWS STACKED AGAINST DETAINEES. [Reuters](#) (7/21, Paperny) reports, “Canada’s immigration detention system relies on faulty information and is stacked against detainees, many of whom lack lawyers and are penalized for having severe mental illness, an audit as found.” Reuters adds, “The

findings, by Toronto-based human rights lawyer Kathy Laird, were commissioned last year by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, the independent government agency whose decision-makers oversee detention reviews.” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government “has vowed to find alternatives to the indefinite incarceration of non-citizens, who can be held without being charged if they are deemed a flight risk, a danger to the public or if their identity is unclear, according to Canada’s regulations.”

AUSTRALIANS PROTEST MIGRANT OFFSHORE DETENTION POLICY. The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Specia, 19.33M) reports, “Thousands protested in cities across Australia on Saturday to mark five years of a policy under which asylum-seekers and migrants have been turned away and detained” at processing centers on “the islands of Manus, which is part of Papua New Guinea, and Nauru.” Since the offshore detention policy was unveiled in 2013, the United Nations Refugee Agency, international human rights organizations, and many Australian citizens have repeatedly called on the Australian government “to end the detentions.”

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